

inventions set forth in six groups. The examiner further stated that all of the six groups were related in subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination and were considered to be distinct from each other because they were, allegedly, shown to be separately usable.

The examiner further contended that the claims of group 1 had separate utility because the wheel cover subject matter thereof could be used on a vehicle wheel without having to transmit the pressure data set forth by the inventions defined in group 6.

The examiner further contended that the wheel cover subject matter defined by the claims of group 2 could be used on most any wheel to merely reduce the drag on the vehicle and further that the fastening arrangements defined by the claims of group 3 and of group 4 were not required for practice of the wheel cover inventions of group 2.

The examiner further contended that wheel cover fastening arrangements defined by the inventions of group 3 had separate utility since they could allegedly be used on any wheel cover and that the particulars of the inventions defined by the claims of groups 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 were not required for the practice of the wheel cover fastening invention defined by the claims of group 3.

The examiner further asserted that the claims of the inventions defined by group 4 could be used to attach any wheel cover to any wheel and thus had separate utility from all the other inventions. The examiner yet further stated that the pressure sensing apparatus, the methods therefor and other components claimed in the inventions of group 6 had separate utility because they would function on any vehicle wheel assembly regardless of the type of wheel covering used and, in the case of claim 73, any vessel, et al. The examiner further contended that the invention defined by the claims of group 6

were not required to practice the inventions defined by the claims of groups 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

Applicants traverse all aspects of the restriction requirement and believe that all of the claims are part of a common, admittedly broad, inventive concept and are directed to solving an important problem in the transport industry, particularly the over the road truck transport industry in the United States of America.

Applicant respectfully submits that the examiner has taken an overly restrictive, unduly limited view of the claims pending in the application and has overlooked the broad, overall function and arrangement and purpose of the invention disclosed and claimed in the application.

Highway accidents are a huge problem in this country. Accidents involving over the road trucks are particularly troublesome since such accidents typically involve a large, heavy, fast moving truck colliding at substantial speed with smaller, lighter passenger carrying automobiles and light trucks. When such a collision occurs, invariably the heavy, over the road truck comes out ahead; the passengers in the automobile(s) are lucky to escape with their lives.

Many of these accidents are caused by blowouts occurring in the truck tires. These blowouts are frequently caused by the tires being overinflated or underinflated, resulting from the truck drivers failing to monitor the pressure in the tires of their trucks since this is somewhat of a tedious job using a handheld tire pressure valve.

The instant invention is directed to mitigating this overall problem.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement raised by the examiner and request reconsideration thereof. Applicants further request reconsideration of the finding of

distinctness among the various groups of inventions and request the examiner to take a broader view of the application and the problem being solved.

Without prejudice to the foregoing and in an effort to move this application forward towards examination on the merits, and further in accordance with the examiner's requirement that applicants elect, on a provisional basis, one of the groups of claims for immediate prosecution, applicants provisionally elect the claims of group 6 and the inventions defined thereby, as the claims to be immediately examined and prosecuted. The election is, of course, without prejudice to applicants' right to file divisional applications directed to the other five groups of claims and without prejudice to applicants' right to seek supervisory authority and supervisory review of the restriction requirement and further without prejudice to applicants' right to offer continuing arguments against the restriction requirement.

For purposes of restriction analysis only, applicants are not necessarily in agreement with the examiner that the inventions defined by the claims, as segregated into the six groups which the examiner has defined, represent groups of inventions which are usable in any meaningful way alone, without use of any of the inventions defined by the claims of another one of the six groups.

Applicants again request the examiner to reconsider the claims, to reconsider the groupings the examiner has made of the claims, and to view the invention in a broader, more comprehensive light, especially with respect to the problem to which the invention is directed. Applicants respectfully submit that upon such reconsideration, the examiner should withdraw the extant restriction requirement and proceed to examine all of the claims pending in the application in a single examination. Applicants respectfully submit

that this would be the most efficient use of the resources of the United States Patent and Trademark Office and result in the most expeditious prosecution of this application.

To the extent there is any fee required in connection with the receipt, acceptance and/or consideration of this paper and/or any accompanying papers submitted herewith, please charge all such fees to deposit account 50-1943.

Respectfully submitted,



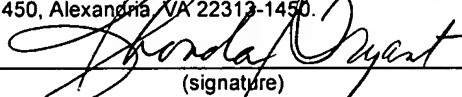
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I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below, with sufficient postage, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


(signature)

BY: RHONDA BRYANT

DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2006

